

Overview

The administration of justice, including policing, falls under the constitutional responsibility of the provinces and territories, which delegate fiscal and governance responsibility municipal governments. The RCMP provides front-line policing services through Police Services Agreements (PSA) at the provincial/territorial and municipal level. These cost-shared agreements authorize the RCMP (under the RCMP Act, Section 20) to act as the police service of jurisdiction and are currently in place for all provinces and territories (P/Ts) except Ontario and Québec, and over 150 municipalities.

As of February 2, 2022, a number of protests are underway across Canada. As Canada's national police service, the RCMP plays different roles within its different mandates. In its Federal Policing mandate, the RCMP is responsible for the Canada/US border between the ports of entry. In its contract policing role, the RCMP is the provincial or territorial police service in all provinces and territories, except Ontario and Quebec. In its provincial policing role, it is responsible for policing the areas north of the Canada /US border in most areas, with two exceptions. The City of Surrey abuts the border and in this area the RCMP is the municipal police service. As well, the City of Abbotsford has its own police service. The RCMP is not the police service of jurisdiction in any of the provincial capitals, but is in the three territorial capitals. Reporting is limited to areas where the RCMP is the police of jurisdiction.

Divisional Breakdown of Freedom Convoy Protests / Activities**E Division – British Columbia**

On January 29, 2022, there were planned "Freedom Rally" truck convoy protests scheduled to occur around both the Province and Country. There were planned protests in Vernon, Kelowna, Peachland and Penticton. The following protests were organized by the Kelowna Freedom Rally on Facebook:

- Vernon – Meet at 9:30 at the weigh scales and then drive to Kelowna to meet up for their start
- Kelowna – Meet at McCurdy/Hwy 97 at 10:45 for convoy starting at 11am
- Peachland – Meet at Heritage Park at 11am and meet up with Kelowna Freedom rally at Stuart Park
- Penticton – Noon at Gyro Park

General Duty resources are in place to visibly monitor the event and will be using additional resources as required from other units such as CSU and traffic. The objective is to ensure the highway remains open to allow emergency access. Should the protest result in further obstruction to traffic or prevent the ability for emergency access, RCMP will be monitoring and consider resources such a TAC. It is likely this protest will result in delays to travellers while the convoy moves through the city and into West Kelowna and south toward Penticton. This will likely create frustrations for those who are travelling around the city. The role for the Kelowna RCMP is in an overtly visible presence ensuring the main emergency routes remain open. Extra resources will be considered if required.

K Division – Alberta

February 2, 2022 - Convoys consisting of semi trucks and passenger vehicles formed in a number of locations across the province. In some towns and municipalities, these convoys travelled directly to Edmonton to meet up with the other groups at the Legislature, causing traffic disruptions along the major highways into Edmonton. In other locations such as Fort McMurray and Grande Prairie, the convoys remained in their respective locations and caused local traffic disruptions.

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The Port of Coumts operates 24 hours a day, and is the largest port of entry in Alberta. Hundreds of commercial and personal vehicles travel through this major thoroughfare on any given day. There are border crossings located at Coumts, Del Bonita, and Carway, Alberta. Coumts is the only 24-hour crossing.

The area of highest concern remains the blockade near the Coumts border crossing and surrounding area. Highway 4 to and from the Canadian side of the border crossing is blocked. The unlawful blockade is being controlled by splinter groups and no longer constitutes a peaceful assembly. A Highway is considered essential infrastructure. It is unlawful to wilfully obstruct, interrupt or interfere with the construction, maintenance, use or operation of any essential infrastructure in a manner that renders the essential infrastructure dangerous, useless, inoperative or ineffective as per the *Critical Infrastructure Defence Act* of Alberta. Contraventions of other applicable legislation may also be enforced.

The organizers of the Coumts protest are distancing themselves from the splinter groups. Additionally, non-protesters that were stuck as a result of the blockade have now been released from that area.

The RCMP's Consultative Conflict Management Group (CCMG) continues trying to engage protest participants; however, the engagement from the organizers has diminished and the splinter groups have not been receptive to any options regarding movement of any part of the blockade. The splinter groups have engaged in limited communications, however, have not cooperated in opening the roadway to border traffic. A joint initiative between RCMP, Canada Border Services Agency, and the United States Customs and Border Services has begun, which involves escorting approximately 30 semi trucks that were stuck just north of the border (in the border clearance lot), to a secondary roadway and will allow the trucks to re-enter Highway 4 and head northbound once past the blockages.

Alberta RCMP is assessing the ongoing situation and mobilizing resources that may be required. The RCMP continues to monitor and respond to the situation as required, including social media accounts. Social media posts have been put out from the Alberta RCMP Twitter and Facebook accounts for public safety, activity and comments on both feeds have increased dramatically. There is an ongoing need for consistent messaging among federal agencies. The RCMP has the lead in this operation at this time.

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January 30, 2022 – The area of highest concern remains the blockade at the Coumts border crossing and surrounding area. Convoys consisting of semi trucks and passenger vehicles formed in a number of locations across the province. In some towns and municipalities, these convoys travelled directly to Edmonton to meet up with the other groups at the Legislature, causing traffic disruptions along the major highways into Edmonton. In other locations (such as Fort McMurray and Grande Prairie), the convoys remained in their respective locations and caused local traffic disruptions. As of January 30, 2022, all protests within RCMP jurisdiction (with the exception of the Coumts blockade) appear to have finished. Highway 4 to and from the Canadian side of the border crossing at Coumts, Alberta remains completely blocked. The blockade (primarily the semi truck blocking the northbound lane with smaller truck reinforcements) is being controlled by splinter groups. The organizers of the Coumts protest are distancing themselves from the splinter groups. The Consultative Conflict Management Group continues trying to engage protest participants; however, the engagement from the organizers has diminished and the splinter groups have not been receptive to any options regarding movement of any part of the blockade. The splinter groups are refusing to engage in ongoing communications. A joint initiative between RCMP, CBSA, and the US Customs and Border Services has begun which involves escorting approximately 30 semi trucks that were stuck just north of the border (in the border clearance lot), to a secondary roadway and will allow the trucks to re-enter Highway 4 and head northbound once past the blockages. K DEOC is

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assisting with identifying and mobilizing additional resources to deal with the situation. RCMP will continue to monitor and respond to the situation as required.

Social media accounts continue to be monitored, there was a shift from a primarily positive to a more negative sentiment regarding the police response, and it has now shifted back to a mixed sentiment. Social media posts have been put out from the Alberta RCMP Twitter and Facebook accounts for public safety, activity and comments on both feeds have increased dramatically. Ongoing need identified for consistent messaging among agencies.

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January 29, 2022 – The Port of Coumts operates 24 hours, and is the largest POE in Alberta. Hundreds of commercial and personal vehicles travel through this major thoroughfare on any given day. There are border crossings located at Coumts, Del Bonita, and Carway, Alberta. Coumts is the only 24-hour crossing. The Coumts POE is positioned on Highway 4 on the Canadian side, and I-15 on the US side. Traffic to and from the Canadian side of the border crossing at Coumts, Alberta is completely blocked. There is a jack-knifed semi truck (reinforced with other vehicles) blocking the northbound lane of Highway 4. The dialogue between the participants and the CCMG has degraded. We are not able to direct traffic to an alternate border crossing. There is a border crossing located at Carway, Alberta; however, it is closed from 1800-0800 daily. US Customs and Border Services has not completely closed the border crossing at Coumts, Alberta; however, only a trickle of vehicles have been crossing. Their agency is advising that notification will be sent to Seattle and is expected to go to Washington, DC. K DEOC has been activated and will remain active if the event is prolonged. RCMP will continue to monitor and respond to the situation. Social media accounts continue to be monitored. Social media posts have been put out from the Alberta RCMP Twitter and Facebook accounts for public safety.

D Division – Manitoba

January 29, 2022 at 11:30 - It was reported that a Support Freedom Convoy demonstration with around 100-200 vehicles was staged at the Flying J truck stop in Headingley and destined for the Manitoba Legislative Building located in downtown Winnipeg. On January 29, 2022, it was reported that there are trucks and demonstration support vehicles lined up at the Emerson border engaged in a continuous slow moving convoy disrupting traffic flow on Highway 75. Detachment members and RCMP traffic services are in both areas to assist with traffic congestion and public safety. The convoy in Emerson is currently approximately 6km in length involving an estimated 100 to 150 vehicles. Activity involves a slow roll 2-mile continuous loop along Highway 75. Members are engaged in communication with event organizers. The convoy currently traveling from Headingley to Winnipeg is over 40km in length. The Winnipeg Police Service (WPS) have been engaged as the demonstration from Headingley is anticipated to end at the Manitoba Legislature. The WPS are considering closing Portage Avenue to facilitate the movement of the convoy. Both the Freedom Convoy support demonstration in Headingley and the Emerson border are peaceful at this time. No significant issues have developed outside of the disruption to traffic flow. Manitoba Justice has been advised of this unfolding situation.

J Division – New Brunswick

January 29, 2022 - The southbound I95 leading to the USA is fully blocked by demonstrations to all traffic. Border POE (CBSA) is still open. Handful of vehicles at NB-NS border. Weather is extremely bad and is deteriorating rapidly.

January 29, 2022 - A convoy of approximately 15 passenger vehicles with members of the Mi'kmaq Council departed NE NB and arrived at Aulac (near NS border); they are currently at a restaurant off the

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highway. Two individuals in the group are identifying as Hereditary Chiefs; the Community Engagement Liaison Team is engaged. The POE (Houlton) at NB/Maine was partially blocked by protesters for approximately 30 minutes and completely blocked for a further 1.5 hours for southbound traffic into the US, however alternative routes were available during the blockade. At approx. 1515 hrs all protesters had departed. Weather conditions have deteriorated in the SE NB, NS, and Maine. Both H and J Division had marked vehicles slide into ditches near the border due to road/weather conditions, no injuries. The following road closures for public access are in effect TCH Hwy 2 to Nova Scotia, Hwy 16 to PEI, and Hwy 15, Moncton to Shediac. Snow plows are expected to recommence clearing at 05:00 hrs on 2022-01-30. The group at Aulac intends to block the highway when it re-opens. Several power outages are being reported across the province. Information received that on 2022-01-30, there will be a "slow roll" in St. Stephen, NB, another POE from NB into Maine. Media was on site at both the Aulac and NB/Maine POE locations. DEOC remains at Level 4 until midnight, 2022-01-30. Internal and external stakeholders will continue to be engaged. J Division A/CORE CROPS is engaged and meeting regularly with H and L Division counterparts. Communication with NB Municipal Police Forces and the Province of NB is ongoing. Open source monitoring continues.

January 28, 2022 – J Division CP/DEOC went to s.37 and on January 29, went to s.37 to manage four events: NS/NB border Protest, NB/Maine Port of Entry Protest, a private vehicle convoy from NE NB, and a severe winter storm. J Division Community Engagement Liaison Team is engaged. Command posts are in place at the NB/NS border as well as the NB/Maine border staffed by J Div members with CBSA and Justice and Public Safety (JPS) NB.

January 27, 2022 – J Division stood up a GSB structure to manage the protests. Operational Plans for the events were developed in consultation with stakeholders. On January 27, a convoy that originated in B, H and L Divisions joined together in Aulac, NB, made its way through NB en route to Ottawa.

H Division – Nova Scotia

January 30, 2022 - In support of the anti-vaccination mandate protest "Freedom Convoy", persons and groups communicated their intention to blockade the Trans-Canada Highway (#104 HWY) at the NS/NB border. J, L and H Divisions held regular meetings to review operational plans in advance of this protest. Extensive planning took place with internal and external partners, to mitigate the possibility of a highway blockade. As of 1300 hours, 2022-01-29 approximately 30 protesters had gathered in the Town of Amherst. At 1500 hours, the #104 HWY and the Cobequid Pass were closed due to deteriorating weather conditions, which resulted in numerous vehicles going off the road, including four police vehicles. All police vehicles were recovered without damage and there were no injuries to our members. A small TSG contingent remained overnight with the remaining members staying at local motels, due to the road closure and information that suggested a small but determined group on the NB side of the border with intentions to shut down the HWY when it re-opens. As of 0800 hours 2022-01-30, HWY #104 has re-opened. It was learned that the small but determined protester group on the NB side had decided to return to their communities. Protesters in Amherst have returned to their communities this morning. As a result, all members excepting a small number of General Duty members are being released from the border and are returning to their Districts.

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